

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of June 11 - June 15, 2007**

1. Visit by Hong Kong Official: Mr. Simon Lee of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong visited Takoma Park on June 12th to learn about our form of government. Mr. Lee and his party are advocating for greater political strength for the local district representatives in Hong Kong. He will be visiting Burlington, Vermont; Jackson, Mississippi; Lincoln, Nebraska and San Francisco on his three-week tour of the United States. He is participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Lee met with City staff and with Councilmember Terry Seamens. He was particularly interested in learning about where municipalities get revenue from and in Takoma Park's Council-Manager form of government. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Seeds for Fields: The Brickman Group was in Takoma Park today providing turf maintenance services for the Ed Wilhelm and Lee Jordan fields. Now that school has ended, the seeding and aeration will have a chance to produce results. There are sports camps using the fields throughout the summer so they will not be totally rested, but with regularly scheduled seedings planned for the remainder of the year, the fields should be "greening up" soon. (*Recreation*)

3. Montgomery County Seeks Volunteers to Collaborate on the Purple Line Plan (City-wide): The Montgomery County Planning Board seeks applicants for a community advisory committee to work with its planners as they craft a plan for the proposed Metro Purple Line, slated to connect Bethesda and New Carrollton. The advisory committee will help planners analyze the transit line's potential impacts on the community. Called a functional master plan, the resulting product will lay out the Planning Department's recommendations for the type of transit - light rail or rapid bus - alignment, and station locations in Montgomery County. The Purple Line functional master plan will provide a framework for the Montgomery County Planning Board to react quickly to the MTA's recommendations for the alignment of either light rail or rapid bus transit, expected by summer 2008. If you are interested in serving on the advisory committee, please submit your letter of interest by Friday, July 13, 2007 to Tom Autrey, Transportation Planning Division thomas.autrey@mncppc-mc.org, Fax: (301) 495-495-1302. (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. UPDATED WEBSITE LINK - Homeowners' and Renters' Tax Credit Program (Citywide): The deadline for filing for a tax credit is September 1, 2007. The programs are designed to help low income home owners and renters by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. An application must be filed each year with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation with the supporting documentation. To obtain an application, you may call the State of Maryland at 1(800) 944-7403, access the application directly on their website at <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html> or call Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. Grand Opening Celebration of the Crossroads Farmers Market (Ward 6): The Grand Opening celebration of the new Crossroads Farmers Market is this coming Wednesday, June 20 at 6:00 pm. The market - located at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue - features a variety of locally grown vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, baked goods,

freshly squeezed juices and ethnic foods. The market will be open every Wednesday through November 14 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. This Wednesday - Tenants/Tenant Associations Meeting (City-wide): The next meeting of tenant associations and tenants interested in forming new associations will take place this coming Wednesday, June 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Takoma Park Community Center. Topics to be discussed will include tenants' concerns about the condominium conversion process and possible changes in the rent stabilization law. Those interested in attending may contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. New Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator (City-wide): Welcome Ms. Lucy Neher to the City of Takoma Park. Ms. Neher has begun working with the Housing and Community Development Department to implement programming designed to encourage children to walk and bike safely to and from school. The project is funded by a grant from the State of Maryland's Safe Routes to School program. Look for more information as the project progresses. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Arts and Humanities Commission at the Jazz Fest (City-wide): The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission hosted a table at the Jazz Fest this past Saturday providing participants with information on its monthly poetry reading series, upcoming public arts projects, and other activities of interest. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. NEW DATE - June Poetry Reading (City-wide): Please note that the monthly poetry reading scheduled for this coming week has been moved to Thursday, June 28. The reading will feature the work of Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger and Cheryl Quimba. The event begins at 7:00 pm and will be held in the auditorium at the Community Center. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Day Planned (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission has issued a call for individuals interested in leading workshops and other sessions as a part of the first annual Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Day to be celebrated on Saturday, October 20, 2007. If you are interested in sharing your talents and your interests with your Community, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org or call Sara Daines at 301.891.7224 for more information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Concert at the Gazebo - Community Drumming Circle (City-wide): The June Diversity Concert Series continues this coming week at the Gazebo on Carroll Avenue. On Thursday, June 21 from 6-8pm, join Jaqui MacMillan with the Drum For Joy Orchestra in their premier performance and participate in a Community Drum Circle. The series is organized by the Old Takoma Business Association/Main Street Takoma with the Institute of Musical Traditions and support from the Takoma Foundation and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Afternoon Addition:

- On June 11, the Afternoon Addition welcomed Brady Hatley from Brookside Nature Center. She brought in animals and reptiles to share with the kids and talked to them

about stewardship and conservation.

- The last week of Afternoon Addition was full of experiences. On Tuesday, June 12, the kids had watermelon, played games, and made crafts. On Wednesday, June 13, the kids learned how to make ice cream with cream, sugar, vanilla, ice and some patience while they shook the bag to make the frozen dessert. A fond farewell and good times were had on June 14, the last day of school, when the Afternoon Addition, KidzCity, and the Fun Day Program went to the National Zoo (a make up trip for the water park due to weather). The staff is already planning for next year's program. *(Recreation)*

13. **KidzCity:** Thirty elementary and middle school children who participate in the KidzCity after school program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center were rewarded for their 2007 academic success with a trip to Six Flags in Largo, Maryland on Friday, June 14. Congratulations to all KidzCity participants! *(Recreation)*

14. **The JazzFest on TV:** City TV covered the annual Takoma Jazz Fest on Saturday, June 9 at Jeque Park from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. City TV staff were able to use Montgomery County's brand new Mobile Production Vehicle instead of the 25 year old remote van. *(CityTV)*

15. **The Chief & Deputy Chief in Meetings:** On June 11, Chief Ricucci met with the organizer of the Annual Steve Francis 4th of July celebration along with Councilmember Terry Seamens to assist with the planning of this year's event. Capt. Ed Coursey attended a multi-jurisdictional meeting in Langley Park which was hosted by Prince George's County State's Attorney Glenn Ivey to discuss mutual issues of interest. On June 14, the Chief attended the Crossroads Development Authority Board of Directors meeting. Today, he met with the Recreation Department staff to discuss security issues relating to the summer basketball league. *(Police)*

16. **Retirement:** On June 13, Private First Class Michael Collins retired on a non-service related disability from the Police Department. *(Police)*

17. **Officers in Training:** On June 13, D/Cpl. Cannatella attended the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System training in Columbia, Maryland. On the 14th and 15th, Dispatchers Walker, Wilson, Matthews, Cubillo and Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) Gallop attended the Montgomery County Department of Police ALTARIS-Computer Aided Dispatch training. This training is in preparation for the agency's transition to the new Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System. *(Police)*

18. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 3 & 6):** Officers conducted at least 72 traffic stops this week, 63 of which resulted in written citations and four vehicle impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway. *(Police)*